

NSC BRIEFING

27 May 1954

KHRUSHCHEV'S RISE IN PRESTIGE

- I. During past week Khrushchev has received unprecedented degree of personal publicity.
 - A. Kazakh press and radio on 19 May carried full report of his inspection trip to Kazakhstan.
 - B. Pravda printed speech by Railroad Minister Beshchev containing a twelve line quotation from Khrushchev's recent Central Committee Speech.
 - C. Pravda printed speech by Kaganovich containing references to Supreme Soviet speeches of Khrushchev and Malenkov, but contrary to protocol, Khrushchev mentioned first.

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D. 22 May speech of Ukrainian First Party Secretary Kirichenko commemorating 300th anniversary of Russian-Ukrainian reunification included Khrushchev but not Malenkov in brief list of "loyal disciples and comrades of V. I. Lenin" who helped form the Soviet Ukraine.

E. Kazakh and Uzbek delegates to celebration also went out of their way to laud Khrushchev.

II. Significance of Khrushchev's new prestige.

A. Contrary to concept of collectivity.

B. Reflects adversely on Malenkov's status as head of party and state.

1. Malenkov's name not known to have been mentioned once in available accounts of Russia-Ukrainian celebration.

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- C. Logical for Malenkov to make some move in near future to counter this trend.
- D. Its continuation could only suggest that Khrushchev's position and influence is greater than Malenkov's.